

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 5-20, 24, 25 and 28-38 are amended for clarification purposes only, and not to distinguish over the prior art.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-38 contain allowable subject matter.

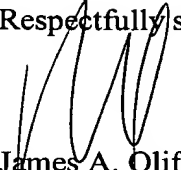
The Office Action rejects claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. §101. Specifically, the Office Action recommends amending the claims to define at least one of the steps implemented in hardware. However, claims 1-4, 21-23, 26 and 27 currently recite at least holding information in a memory. Moreover, claims 5-20, 24, 25 and 28-38 are amended to recite a computer system in the preambles instead of a device. The memory and computer system are hardware devices that may store and/or process software. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 9 is amended to obviate the rejection. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-38 are now in a condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claim 1-38 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: July 18, 2005

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